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Athletic Trainers to be Licensed Effective December 1, 2006

■ Athletic Trainer	■ Athletic Trainer Certified	■ C.A.T.
■ Licensed Athletic Trainer	■ A.T.	■ A.T.C.
■ Certified Athletic Trainer	■ A.T.L.	

Updates will be provided in future issues of HealthLink and on our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense.

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licensee must meet individually and in person with his or her supervisor weekly for a minimum of four hours per month during which all active work functions and records of the limited licensee are reviewed.

Rule 338.2510a indicates unless employed by a governmental entity or a nonprofit organization serving benevolent and charitable purposes, the limited licensee is required to be supervised by a licensed psychologist. If the limited licensee has been licensed for less than 10 years, the supervision must be individually and in person for a minimum of two hours a month. If the limited licensee has been licensed for 10 or more years, the supervision must be individually and in person for a minimum of one hour per month.

In all cases, the supervisor is defined as someone who is licensed in Michigan or who is licensed or certified at the independent practice level in the state where the experience is obtained.

Licensees will be asked to identify his or her supervisor when they renew their license starting in 2006. Psychologists will also be required to report the contact information for the people they are supervising.

Licensees can request that the Board consider an alternative supervision arrangement in cases of hardship. Part-time or non-employment does not relieve the licensee from the supervision requirement. Some type of supervision for limited licensees needs to be in place in order to maintain the licensure status such as meeting regularly with his/her supervisor to discuss current issues in psychology. Requests for alternative supervision should be submitted to the Department for consideration by the Board before the alternative arrangement is implemented. Requests need to include constructive and realistic alternative solutions that would meet the need for supervision as required by the Public Health Code and Administrative Rules.

■ Volunteer Physician License Bill Signed Into Law

A bill to provide for a special volunteer license for retired physicians was recently signed into law by Governor Granholm. The new law, P.A. 24 of 2006, was effective on February 16, 2006. This new law allows an individual who is retired from the active practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and surgery, to donate his or her expertise for the medical care and treatment of indigent and needy individuals or individuals in medically underserved areas in Michigan. Although there is no license fee required to obtain the special volunteer license, retired physicians will need to submit a Controlled Substance license application with the appropriate fee if he/she is prescribing controlled substances.

Under P.A. 24, an individual is considered retired from practice if his/her license has expired and he/she has ceased to engage in the practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and surgery for compensation.

Other provisions of this new law require that the applicant must have previously held a Michigan license as a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery, or doctor of podiatric medicine and surgery, and the license was in good standing prior to the expiration date. In addition, if the applicant has been out of practice for three or more years, documentation must be submitted that he/she has attended at least two-thirds of the continuing education courses or programs required of permanently licensed physicians during the three years immediately preceding the application for the special volunteer license. A companion bill, P.A. 25 of 2006, provides immunity for retired physicians who apply for and receive the special volunteer license.

The special volunteer license application and additional information will be available on our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense in the near future.

■ New Registration Requirements for Acupuncturists

Effective July 1, 2006, Public Act 30 of 2006 provides for the registration of acupuncturists in the State of Michigan. An individual who is engaged in the practice of acupuncture and uses any of the following titles must be registered in accordance with the new law:

- Acupuncturist
- Certified Acupuncturist
- Registered Acupuncturist

Registration fees will be \$200.00 per year plus a \$75.00 application processing fee.

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CONTACTING BHP

By Mail:

Bureau of Health Professions
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909-8170

By Phone:

(517) 335-0918
(517) 241-9427 (License Verification)

Website:

www.michigan.gov/healthlicense

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Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor, State of Michigan

Janet Olszewski
Director, Community Health

Melanie B. Brim
Director, Bureau of Health Professions

Editor: Ray R. Garza

Reader's comments are invited. Please e-mail comments and suggestions to the editor at: rrgarza@michigan.gov or write to: HealthLink Editor, BHP, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.

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The passage of this legislation is only the first step. The Governor must appoint a Board of Acupuncture, which will consist of four acupuncturists, three physicians licensed to practice in Michigan and two public members. The Department of Community Health, in consultation with the Board, will develop administrative rules that identify the minimum standards for registration. Applications for registration and the actual issuance of registrations cannot begin until the rules have been developed and formally approved. This process can take between 12 and 18 months to complete. At this point, we do not expect to begin the application and registration of acupuncturists prior to January 2008.

As we get closer to the January 2008 implementation date, you can request an application for registration by either emailing us at bhpinfo@michigan.gov or calling our main line at (517) 335-0918 and leaving your name and address in the applications mailbox.

Updates will be provided in future issues of HealthLink and on our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense.

■ Continuing Education Requirements for Licensed Bachelor's and Licensed Master's Social Workers

Effective July 1, 2005, significant changes regarding the regulation of the social work profession occurred. One of these changes involves the continuing education requirement for Licensed Bachelor's Social Workers (LBSW) and Licensed Master's Social Workers (LMSW). Please note Registered Social Service Technicians are not required to take continuing education to maintain their registration.

Beginning with the May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2009 renewal cycle, anyone who is licensed as a LBSW or LMSW will be required to complete 45 clock hours of continuing education (45 clock hours is equivalent to 45, 60-minute blocks of time) in the three year renewal cycle.

Additional information regarding continuing education requirements as well as approved courses or activities can be found on our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense. Questions can also be directed to bhpinfo@michigan.gov or (517) 335-0918.

■ Has Your License Number Changed?

To more efficiently identify the types of licenses people have, we have made a few changes in the numbers issued to those we regulate. We refer to your registration number or your license number as your permanent id number, which is listed on

the bottom left-hand corner of your official "license" document. The changes are:

Occupational Therapy Assistant

The fourth digit of your registration number has changed. Previously anyone regulated under the Board of Occupational Therapy was issued a registration number that started with 5201. All Occupational Therapy Assistants now have registration numbers that start with **5202**.

For example: If you are an occupational therapy assistant and your permanent ID number was 5201003456, it is now 5202003456.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Question & Answer Corner

In the Fall 2005 issue of HealthLink, we included our first "Question & Answer Corner". In this issue, our question concerns the practice of acupuncture.

Question: Is the practice of acupuncture considered the practice of medicine?

Answer: The Michigan Public Health Code states that acupuncture is considered the practice of medicine and can, therefore, only be performed by an **osteopathic or allopathic physician**, unless the procedure is delegated **and** supervised as allowed under the delegation provisions of the Code.

However, the Governor recently signed new legislation (Public Act 30 of 2006) that provides for the registration of acupuncturists. Because the registration is not effective until July 1, 2006 and we do not anticipate the actual registration to begin until January 2008 (see related article), it is important for all health care professionals to understand that only osteopathic and allopathic physicians can currently perform acupuncture or delegate the procedure until further notice.

As always, we will continue to provide updates in future issues of HealthLink. Please be sure to also check our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense for up-to-date information not only on the registration of acupuncturists but other important information as well.

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Social Workers

To accommodate the changes in the social workers from registration to licensure, the following numbers have been assigned to each category:

Social Service Technician Limited	6803
Social Service Technician	6803
Bachelor's Social Worker Limited	6802
Bachelor's Social Worker	6802
Master's Social Worker Limited	6801
Master's Social Worker	6801

Patient Safety Commission Report

Members of the Patient Safety Commission recently released their report containing recommendations designed to improve patient safety and reduce health care errors across the state.

The Commission, formed in 2005 by Governor Granholm, is comprised of representatives from 15 organizations that include health plans, major employers, professional associations, and hospital, physician, consumer, and labor organizations.

The report contains 13 major objectives regarding patient safety including:

- Creating a Michigan Center for Safe Health Care, a freestanding, non-profit organization to coordinate efforts around

the state to reduce patient harm. Several states have enacted legislation supporting the creation of such patient safety centers to address the problem of health care errors.

- Establishing a statewide, confidential, non-punitive, and voluntary error reporting system. The Michigan Center for Safe Health Care would design, implement, and manage the reporting system, which would be used to identify important areas.

- Increasing outreach to patients, their families, and consumers in general to include them as partners in patient safety.

The Department of Community Health is reviewing the Commission's report and will present an implementation plan for the recommendations to the Governor within the next 90 days.

The report can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/SCPS_Final_Report_Vol1_Nov7_154705_7.pdf

WHAT'S NEW

MyLicense Is Coming Soon

We are pleased to announce *MyLicense*, a web-based professional licensing system that will be launched in the very near future. Once *MyLicense* is fully operational, applicants will be able to apply for their health professional license online. Initially, only Medical Doctor, Clinical Academic Medical Doctor, Educational Limited Medical Doctor and Educational Limited Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery applications will be available for online completion. However, in the coming months, other applications will be added to *MyLicense* and eventually, all of our applications for licensure will be available for applicants to complete online.

Current licensees will also find that *MyLicense* offers many exciting features such as the ability to request a duplicate license or change their address of record all from the comfort of their computer.

MyLicense will also provide our licensees with the option of renewing their license online. Many of our licensees already know renewing online is easy and convenient. In fact, nearly 20% of our licensees take advantage of our current online renewal system. *MyLicense* will make renewing your license online even easier.

Please check our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense for additional information and updates regarding *MyLicense*.